

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/613,182
Reply to Office Action mailed January 7, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Specification and claims 2, 3, and 6 are hereby amended. Claims 2 and 3 are rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 8-15 are canceled.

Withdrawn claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 2. Withdrawn claims 4-7 should be reinstated for allowance with claims 2 and 3.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Sugiyama (US 2004/0041201 A1). Claim 1 is canceled rendering the rejection moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to claim 1.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300



Dated: April 1, 2005

DPM:MFE:km

By

A handwritten signature of Douglas P. Mueller in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300